

## **REMARKS**

Claims 1-3, 5-16, 18-22, 24, 27-41, 47-49, 51-62, 64, 66-68, 70, 73-87, 108-120, 122-127, 129, 130-134 are presently pending in the above-captioned Application and have been subjected to restriction under 35 U.S.C. § 121. Specifically, the Office Action avers that the Application contains claims directed to the following patentably distinct inventions:

I. Claims 1-3, 5-16, 18-22, 24, 27-41, 47-49, 51-62, 66-68, 70, 73-87, 117-120, 122-127 and 129 drawn to an apparatus and a method of authentication by digital signature, classified in class 713, subclass 176.

II. Claims 108-116 and 134, drawn to an apparatus and a method of system of authentication for access control by biometric acquisition, classified in class 713, subclass 187.

III. Claims 130-133, drawn to an apparatus and a method of communication authentication by particular technique, classified in class 713, subclass 168.

Applicant notes that claim 64 is also pending in the Application. In the Office Action, the Examiner did not state to which invention claim 64 is drawn. The Examiner is respectfully requested to so indicate.

In response to the Examiner's requirement for restriction, Applicant hereby elects to prosecute the subject matter of Invention III., currently presented by Claims 130-133.

However, Applicant reserves the right under 35 U.S.C. § 121 to file one or more divisional applications directed to the non-elected claims of the Application.

In view of the foregoing, an examination on the merits of the elected claims at an early date is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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